## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

e application of

Confirmation No. 5355

Shinichi NAKAYAMA et al.

Docket No. 2003 1238A

Serial No. 10/648,327

Group Art Unit 3683

Filed August 27, 2003

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE

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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

[X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted: 1a.

> within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the aboveentitled application, or

> before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

[] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted. 1b.

> after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

	•				
(1) [] th	ne certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or				
(2) [] th	ne fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.				
[] This	Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:				
after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:					
the cert	ification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and				
the fee	of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.				
It is here	eby certified				
a. []	that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or				
b. []	that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.				
	eration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or ned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.				
For each	n non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is :				
a. []	a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,				
b. []	a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,				

lc.

2.

3. []

4.

- c. [] the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. [X] the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstracts,
- e. [] the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
- 5. [] A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Shinichi NAKAYAMA et al.

Ву

Michael S. Huppert Registration No. 40,268 Attorney for Applicants

MSH/kjf Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 January 16, 2004

Sheet 1 of 1	1,	1	•.							
FORM PTO 1449 (mo	ATTY DOCKET NO. SERIAL 2003_1238A 10/648									
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  (U.S. Several sheets if necessary)  DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  (U.S. Several sheets if necessary)  Submitted to PTO: January 16, 2004				APPLICANT Shinichi NAKAYAMA et al.						
				FILING DATE August 27, 2003				GROUP 3683		
\ \tag{\chi}			U.	S. PATENT DO	CUMENTS					
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		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	со	COUNTRY CLASS			SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
·	AJ	2002-364689	12/2002		JP				Abstract	
	AK	56-168633	5/1980		JP				Abstract	
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		OTHER	DOCUMENT(S) (I	Including Author	r, Title, Date, Pertine	ent Pages	s, Etc.)			
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EXAMINER	1			DATE CONSIDERED						

<sup>\*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.